Reward for Informers about Smuggling of Gold, Silver etc.

743 DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that informers intimating/furnishing prior information about smuggling of gold, silver etc. are adequately rewarded by Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Informers are eligible for monetary reward for giving prior information leading to seizure of gold and silver and other contraband goods. This reward is an *ex-gratia* payment which may be granted on the absolute discretion of the authority competent to grant rewards and cannot be claimed as a matter of right. In determining the amount of reward which may be granted in a particular case, the specificity and accuracy of the information, the risk and trouble undertaken, the extent and nature of help rendered by the informers and whether the information gives clues to the persons involved in smuggling or their associates is kept in mind by the competent authority. The prescribed monetary ceiling upto which rewards are granted to informers for giving information leading to the seizure of gold and silver are given below:

Sl.No.	Commodity	Monetary ceiling	Prescribed purity
1	Gold	Rs. 500 per 10 gms.	999.5 Mille or more.
2	Silver	Rs. 1000 per Kg.	99% or more.

Barter Deal between India and North Korea

744. DR. WELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enter into a Barter deal with North Korea; and

(b) if so what are the details of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Government have no proposal to enter into a barter deal with North Korea, however, MMTC has concluded an agreement for import of rice from DPR Korea, which *inter alia* provides that 15 per cent of the value of rice will be utilised for export of iron ore, manganese ore, pellets etc. from India to DPRK.

Export of Chillies

745. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what have been the yearwise exports of chillies from India from 1982 to 1988 and what steps are being taken to boost the exports;

(b) what are the names of the countries which are our main competitors in this regard and the names of the countries which are our principal importers; and

(c) whether STC or Spices Export Council is taking any steps to increase exports of the commodity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The year-